

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 01688 241444Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1037
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1688

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR JO PLO IS XF
SUBJECT: WEST BANK, THE PLO AND ISRAELIS

1. IN SHORT CONVERSATION MARCH 23, ADNAN ABU ODEH MININFO WHO IS ALSO CHARGED BY GOJ WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEST BANK AFFAIRS, TOLD US HE SEES NEW SIGNS OF PLO ACTIVITY IN WEST BANK, POSSIBLY ADDED AND ABETTED BY ISRAELIS. FAR FETCHED AS IT SOUNDS HIS STORY GOES LIKE THIS: PLO IS NOW DESPERATE AND FINALLY RECOGNIZES THAT THE REAL PALESTINIANS CONSTITUENCY IS ON THE WEST BANK, AS A RESULT THEY HAVE USED THEIR INCONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH THE GULF STATES TO DEVELOP SUBSIDIES FOR WEST BANK MAYORS WHOCAN COME TO THE PLO TO GET THESE FUNDS. JORDAN RATHER FOOLISHLY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SOME WEST BANK CONSERVATIVES HAS DECIDED TO HOLD BACK ON PROVIDING FUNDS TO THE WEST BANK.

2. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE ISRAELIS SEE SOME ADVANTAGES IN PLAYING ALONG WITH PART OF THE GAME. THEIR OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP A CAPTIVE WEST BANK LEADERSHIP WITH WHICH THEY CAN DEAL INDEPENDENTLY PERHAPS EVEN AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE TALKING WITH THEM ABOUT A FEDERATION. THE ISREALIS HE SAYS HAVE NOT BEGUN TO PERMIT THE WEST BANKS TO RECEIVE GULF FUNDS THROUGH
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THE PLO. THIS WILL BUILD UP A GROUP OF WEST BANKER MAYORS FOR A TIME. THEY WILL KEEP THEIR EYE ON THIS ACTIVITY AND AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME CUT OFF OR RATION THE FLOW OF FUNDS SO THAT THE THEN MORE POPULAR MAYORSWILL BE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THE ISRAELIS) ALL THIS MEANS THAT JORDAN IS INCREASINGLY CUTTING ITSELF OFF OF THE WEST BANK AND LEAVING THE FIELD TO THE IREALIS AND THE PLO TO FIND OUT WHO GETS THE ALLEGIANCE

OF LOCAL LEADERS.

3. ABU ADEH BELIEVES THAT IN THE LONG RUN EVEN THOUGH THE NEW GENERATION ON THE WEST BANKS LOOKS STRONGLY TO PLO IF THE AREA IS FRED LINKS WITH JORDAN WILL COME ABOUT INEVITABLE. AS A RESULT HE SEES THE PRESENT STATE OF DEVELOPMENTS AS BEING VERY MALICIOUS AND UNHELPFUL. HE BELIEVES ALSO THAT FOR WEST BANK POLITICIANS MONEY (HE CALLED IT BRIBES) IS VERY IMPORTANT ALTHOUGH NOT THE EXCLUSIVE POLITICAL CEMENT IN THE PROCESS OF GAINING LOYALTY AND SUPPORT HE IS IN A QUANDRY ABOUT WHAT TO DO-- BUT IS TOYING WITH SEEKING MORE FUNDS FOR LOANS TO WEST BANK COMMUNITIES FROM JORDAN TO KEEP HIS HAND IN AND TO EMPHASIZE IN HIS INFORMATION ACTIVITIES THE CLOSE TIES OF THE FAMILIES AND ECONOMIES OF THE TWO BANKS OF THE JORDAN.

4. COMMEND: ABU OHEHS THESIS IS AS INTERESTING AS IT SOUNDS FAR FETCHED AND WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY COMMENTS TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM MIGHT HAVE TO OFFER PICKERING

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